

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2013-0051-EA**

**SRP #AZ-030-14-02**

**2 Wheel Events Attack The Crack and Dirty Turkey**

Applicant: 2 Wheel Events L.L.C.

Mohave County

Lake Havasu Field Office  
2610 Sweetwater Avenue  
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406

Prepared by: Amanda Deeds  
Date: October 2013



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# **CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 Identifying Information**

CASEFILE/ PROJECT NUMBER (optional): SRP #AZ-030-14-02

PROJECT TITLE: 2 Wheel Events Attack The Crack and The Dirty Turkey

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T13N R19W Sections 28-35  
T12N R19W Section 4

APPLICANT: 2 Wheel Events L.L.C.

## **1.2 Introduction and Project Background**

A five-year Special Recreation Permit (SRP) application has been received by 2 Wheel Events L.L.C. proposing commercial and competitive use of public land adjacent to the east, south and west sides of SARA Park, a R&PP lease to Lake Havasu City, Arizona (see Appendix B Map). Proposed activities include a hike, a, mountain bike endurance run, and foot race. All events would be open to the public for a fee. The applicant was previously permitted for this event in 2012. The first event of the proposed 5-year SRP would occur on November 29-30, 2013; all subsequent events would follow suit on an annual basis. One segment of the event course was not designated within the Lake Havasu Field Office Travel Management Plan. This Environmental Assessment evaluates both the impacts of the proposed SRP and the inclusion of an approximately 1.5 mile non-motorized trail into the current travel network approved in the Havasu Travel Management Plan (TMP).

## **1.3 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action**

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to respond to an SRP application from 2 Wheel Events L.L.C. to utilize Bureau of Management (BLM) administered lands located in the Lake Havasu City, AZ area for a commercial, non-motorized event. The Proposed Action would also modify the exiting travel network by designating an existing non-motorized trail open to public use for inclusion into the Havasu TMP.

The need of the Proposed Action is to comply with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq., which establishes outdoor recreation as one of the principle uses of public lands, and directs the Secretary of the Interior to regulate, through permits or other instruments, the use of public lands (43 CFR 2931.3).

## **1.4 Decision to be Made**

The BLM would decide through analysis, whether or not to authorize 2 Wheel Events L.L.C. to conduct a commercial and competitive non-motorized event on authorized trails. All stipulations for the event would need to be adhered to. As part of the Proposed Action, BLM would also determine whether or not to modify the Havasu TMP to designate approximately 1.5 miles of

existing trail as open to non-motorized use.

The SRP authorization would only apply to routes situated on BLM-administered lands. As there is a federal nexus to non-public lands adjacent to the proposed area of use, the responsibility of obtaining permission for use of privately owned, state owned, and tribal owned roads and routes lies exclusively on the applicant.

## **1.5 Conformance with Land Use Plan**

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the *Lake Havasu Field Office Resource Management Plan* (RMP) approved on May 10, 2007 and is specifically provided for in the following RMP management objectives and decisions:

- Page 103, Special Recreation Permits and Vendor permits will be monitored for compliance and effectiveness on an as-needed basis through the NEPA process.
- Page 112, TM-1 Designations will be made and management implemented for a balance of opportunities for the entire range of motorized and non-motorized access needs. While in balance with other resource values found on public lands.
- Page 113, TM-6 The BLM will continue to provide motorized and non-motorized access across public lands with emphasis on development of non-motorized trails and trailheads.

## **1.6 Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans**

The Proposed Action is in accordance with 43 CFR, Part 2930, Use Authorizations, and Subpart 2932. These laws require Special Recreation Permits for organized recreation activities on BLM administered public lands. This proposal has been submitted within the guidelines of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Manual 2932, and H-2932-1 regulations and policies. In addition, other federal laws and regulations that apply are the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act and the Federal Land Policy Management Act.

The Proposed Action complies with the *Lake Havasu Field Office Havasu Travel Management Plan* (TMP) approved September 2013. It is clearly consistent with the following (TMP objectives, terms and conditions):

- Page 14, 3.4.3. Establishment of New Roads and Trails. Potential changes to the travel network may be made through activity level planning or with the appropriate site specific NEPA analysis.

The Proposed Action complies with the *Travel and Transportation Management Handbook H-8342-1*. It is clearly consistent with the following (TMP objectives, terms and conditions):

- Page 5. Changes to the Travel Network. Project proposals for all resource programs that require changes to the travel and transportation network will also include proposed

modifications to the associated TMP. Analysis of any TMP modifications can occur within project NEPA and analysis.

## **1.7 Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues**

SCOPING: The principal goals of scoping are to allow public participation in identifying issues, concerns, and potential impacts that would require detailed analysis. The NEPA Team met on September 17, 2013 to discuss the Proposed Action. In addition to cultural and wildlife concerns the scoping issues identified were:

- Conflict between the public and authorized use
- Event monitoring and permit compliance of participants

EXTERNAL SCOPING: External scoping was not conducted as no potential impacts to external parties were identified within the internal scoping meeting.

INTERNAL SCOPING: The table in Section 3.1.1 (Interdisciplinary Team Review) summarizes the resources scoped by the interdisciplinary team on September 17, 2013 for the Proposed Action.

## **CHAPTER 2 - PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

### **2.1 Introduction**

A five-year SRP application filed by 2 Wheel Events L.L.C. proposes commercial and competitive use of public land adjacent to the east, south and west sides of SARA Park, a R&PP lease to Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Proposed activities include a hike, a, mountain bike endurance run, and foot race. All events would be open to the public for a fee. The applicant was previously permitted for this event in 2012. One segment of the event course was not designated within the Lake Havasu Field Office Travel Management Plan. This Environmental Assessment evaluates both the impacts of the proposed SRP and the inclusion of an approximately 1.5 mile non-motorized trail into the current travel network approved in the Havasu Travel Management Plan (TMP).

### **2.2 Alternatives Analyzed in Detail**

#### **2.2.1 Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action involves a two-day commercial and competitive non-motorized event on BLM administered public lands. All applicable laws and permit stipulations would be adhered to. The first event of the proposed five-year SRP would occur on November 29-30, 2013; all subsequent events would follow suit on an annual basis.

The Proposed Action includes a one-lap foot race, a one-lap hike, and a six-hour competitive mountain bike endurance event for up to 300 participants on designated non-motorized trails. Approximately 15 miles of existing trails on BLM administered public lands would be utilized; approximately 2 miles of existing trails on R&PP leased lands would be utilized.

The event would be staged on R&PP lands situated on SARA Park. One trail proposed for use as part of a mountain bike course lies completely on R&PP lands and was not part of this analysis. No public land closures would be necessary as SARA Park would remain open to public use. The applicant would coordinate with Lake Havasu City and local law enforcement officials to control traffic, participants, and spectators on SARA Park. Event participants and casual users alike would be informed of event activities and its associated course upon arrival to SARA Park.

The only other access road that leads to public lands within the proposed area of use is located approximately four miles south of SARA Park on Highway 95. This access road is gated to the public and designated in the Havasu TMP as limited to administrative use. While this limited access does not present any foreseeable conflict or safety concerns, the gate will be signed 24 hours prior to the start of the and throughout the entire duration of the event for public notification.

Water stops and event personnel with radios would be staged under temporary pop-up shade structures at multiple locations along the proposed trails (See Appendix B Map). These stops would be placed in pre-disturbed areas. No off-trail foot or bike travel would be permitted. All event signing, litter, and trash would be properly disposed of within 72 hours after the event has ended.

A segment of the routes proposed for use for the mountain bike endurance portion of the event provides was not designated within in the Havasu TMP; this segment is approximately 1.5 miles in length and serves as a bypass to adjacent private lands. It is a well-established trail, is currently inventoried, and was previously permitted during last year's event. The Proposed Action would modify the Havasu TMP to designate this route as open to non-motorized use.

### 2.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, an SRP would not be issued. The applicant would not be able to conduct OHV tours as viable options without the use of BLM administered public lands do not exist. The applicant would not be able to conduct the proposed non-motorized event as viable options without use of public lands do not exist. This would result in the loss of this particular type of recreational opportunity in the Lake Havasu City, AZ area. No direct or indirect impacts would occur to the affected environment under the No Action Alternative. The existing routes would remain open for non-motorized use; however, the Havasu TMP would not be modified to include the proposed private property bypass trail as open to non-motorized use.

## 2.3 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated From Detailed Analysis

One existing trail that crosses private lands was proposed for use by the applicant, but was eliminated from consideration on their own accord due to the necessity of obtaining a letter of authorization from private land owners.

## CHAPTER 3 - AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

### 3.1 Introduction/ Background

This section provides a description of the human and natural environmental resources that could be affected by the Proposed Action and presents comparative analyses of the direct, indirect and cumulative effects on the affected environment stemming from the implementation of the actions under the Proposed Action and other alternatives analyzed.

#### 3.1.1 Interdisciplinary Team Review

The following table is provided as a mechanism for resource staff review, to identify those resource values with issues or potential impacts from the proposed action and/or alternatives. Those resources identified in the table as potentially impacted will be brought forward for analysis.

Resource	Resource Status	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis
<b>Air Quality and Climate*</b> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	NP	The Proposed Action area is not within a non-attainment area.
<b>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</b> <i>George W. Shannon, Jr., Ph.D</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Cultural, Historic &amp; Paleontological Resources*</b> <i>George W. Shannon, Jr., Ph.D</i>	PI	See Affected Environment and Appendix A
<b>Environmental Justice</b> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Farmlands (Prime or Unique)</b> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Fish Habitat*</b> <i>Doug Adams</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Floodplains*</b> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Forest Management*</b> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Fuels/ Fire Management</b> <i>Mike Trent</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.



<b>Geology/ Minerals</b> <i>Amy Titterington</i>	PNI	The Proposed Action would not result in any damage or modification of any existing mining claims and would not affect mineral resources of the area.
<b>Grazing/ Rangeland</b> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Invasive &amp; Non-Native Species</b> <i>Jennifer House</i>	PNI	Stipulations in the SRP would require permittee to stay on designated trails avoiding contact with any invasion and non-native species
<b>Lands &amp; Realty</b> <i>Lisa Stapp</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Law Enforcement</b> <i>Jonathan Azar</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Migratory Birds*</b> <i>Jennifer House</i>	PNI	Bird species utilizing the surrounding habitat may be temporarily displaced during the event, but individuals would most likely return to the area after the completion of all the activities. As there will be no new surface disturbance associated with the proposed action, there will be no other impact on migratory birds.
<b>Native American Religious Concerns*</b> <i>George W. Shannon, Jr., Ph.D</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Noise</b> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Public Health &amp; Safety</b> <i>Bill Parry</i>	PNI	Stipulations in the SRP would require the permittee to provide an emergency action plan, hold a driver safety meeting, and carry a list of local emergency contacts.
<b>Recreation</b> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	PI	See Affected Environment and Appendix A
<b>Socioeconomics</b> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Soils</b> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	PNI	No new trail construction or off-trail travel would be permitted under the proposed action. Future trail maintenance would occur in accordance to BLM standards to control water run-off and prevent trail erosion.
<b>T &amp; E Species*</b> <i>Jennifer House</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Travel Management</b> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	PI	See Affected Environment and Appendix A
<b>Vegetation</b> <i>Jennifer House</i>	PI	See Affected Environment and Appendix A
<b>Visual Resources</b> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	PNI	Since no ground disturbance would be permitted, this resource would not be impacted
<b>Wastes Hazardous or Solid*</b> <i>Cathy Wolff-White</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.

<b>Water Quality Surface and Ground*</b> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Wetlands and Riparian*</b> <i>Doug Adams</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Wilderness, WSAs, Wild &amp; Scenic Rivers</b> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Wilderness Characteristics</b> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Wild Horses &amp; Burros</b> <i>Chad Benson</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Wildlife Aquatic</b> <i>Doug Adams</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<b>Wildlife Terrestrial</b> <i>Jennifer House</i>	PI	See Affected Environment and Appendix A

\*Consideration Required by Law or Executive Order

NP = Not Present

PNI = Present, Not Impacted

PI = Present and/ or Impacted

The impacted resources brought forward for analysis include:

- Cultural Resources
- Recreation
- Travel Management
- Wildlife

## 3.2 Physical Resources

### 3.2.1 Recreation

**Affected Environment:** The project area provides unique opportunities in outdoor recreation. Local and traveling visitors alike utilize the site specific public lands to hike, mountain bike, trail run, and ride horseback. SARA Park is a popular non-motorized recreation area for the local community. The trails proposed for authorized use are open to free, year-round public casual use.

Environmental Effects:

Proposed Action

**Direct and Indirect Impacts:** Under the Proposed Action, there is the potential to negatively affect public visitor experiences during the event. Visitors expecting to experience solitude and remoteness may be impacted by the increased numbers of people in the area participating in the event.

Protective/ Mitigation Measures: In addition to the attached stipulations (Appendix A), to alleviate any negative public visitor experiences, 2 Wheel Events L.L.C. has been advertising the event at the SARA Park trailhead for two months prior to the onset of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action has also been posted on both the Lake Havasu City and Convention & Visitors Bureau calendars. Start times for the various event activities would be staggered to avoid congestion of event participants. Mountain bikers would start at 8:00 a.m. and take off in the lemans-style to avoid congestion. The footrace would begin at 9:00 a.m. and the hike would begin after all footrace participants have cleared the start line. The footrace and hike events are anticipated to end before 10:30 a.m.; the mountain bike event participants are anticipated to finish before 3:00 p.m. As noted above, all casual users who enter the SARA Park trailhead would be informed of the event and trails utilized to avoid unexpected conflict.

#### No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Impacts: Under the No Action Alternative, the BLM would not issue a SRP to the applicant. Other recreation events and year-round actions permitted by LHFO in the Lake Havasu City, AZ area would continue to exist. In addition, BLM would not modify the Havasu TMP to designate the existing 1.5 mile trail of non-motorized trail as open to public use.

#### 3.2.2 Travel Management

Affected Environment: The project area provides unique opportunities in outdoor recreation. Local and traveling visitors utilize site specific public lands to hike, mountain bike, trail run, and ride horseback. Currently, there are limited long distance mountain biking trails in the area.

#### Environmental Effects:

#### Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Impacts: Under the Proposed Action, the Havasu TMP would be amended to designate approximately 1.5 miles of existing non-motorized trail. The trail would provide a public lands bypass to private lands crossed by the current trails system. The additional trail would increase overall connectivity of the current travel network to meet current and long term public needs. Increases in trail traffic may also result in increased trail wear, erosion, and increased potential for route proliferation.

Protective/ Mitigation Measures: The current existing trail would be maintained for non-motorized public use. Any new trail construction or re-routing maintenance would be analyzed through the NEPA process. The trail location is such that it would be difficult to operate a mountain bike or ride a horse off of the existing trail. The trail would be maintained and monitored in accordance to BLM standards with the assistance of local volunteers.

#### No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Impacts: Under the No Action Alternative, the BLM would not designate the existing approximately 1.5 miles of trail as open to public, non-motorize use. The trail would not

be included within the Havasu TMP and non-motorized travel on this trail would continue to cross private lands. Recreational travel opportunities would remain the same and the route would not be designated as open to public use.

Protective/ Mitigation Measures: Trails within the area would continue to be monitored for trail proliferation. Closed trails would be monitored for unauthorized use and potential reclamation needs.

### **3.3 Biological Resources**

#### **3.3.1 Wildlife Terrestrial**

Affected Environment: Multiple species of wildlife exist along the proposed event trails. Several species of mammals may utilize the woodland washes as corridors for traveling, food, and shelter. Some of the large animals that occur in the area include desert bighorn sheep, javelina, and desert mule deer. Other animals that can be found in the area include the desert tortoise, several species of rattle snakes and black tail jackrabbit, desert cottontail, desert wood rat, cactus mouse, bobcat, mountain lion, coyote, kit fox, ringtail, and various species of bats. Migratory birds may be located along the Lake Havasu shoreline and riparian areas.

Environmental Effects:

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Impacts: Under the Proposed Action, foot and mountain bike travel would be confined to existing routes. Increased public use could cause short term disturbances and displacement of wildlife.

Protective/ Mitigation Measures: In addition to the attached stipulations (Appendix A), no stops or site visits would be authorized at the water catchment located in close proximity to the mountain bike course within T12N, R19W, Section 4. Harassment of wildlife is prohibited. The timing and duration of the event would be short-term and limited to one day of event set up and one day of event activity/tear down each year. Any impacts to wildlife would be temporary and minimal. Temporary disturbance, limited stops along the proposed trails, and special stipulations in the Special Recreation Permit would reduce the likelihood of impacts to wildlife. No long-term or permanent trail markers or structures would be permitted. No direct, indirect or cumulative impacts are anticipated.

No Action Alternative

Direct and Indirect Impacts: There would be no impacts to general wildlife because the event would not occur and the existing trail would remain at its current state. Impacts to general wildlife caused by on-going activities present in the project area, such as the public use of non-motorized trails, would expect to be continued.

### **3.4 Heritage Resources and Human Environment**

#### **3.4.1 Cultural and Historic Resources**

**Affected Environment:** Recorded sites and artifacts found within the proposed project area indicate continuous occupancy dating from about 5,000 B.C. Trails, sleeping circles, shrines, intaglios, lithic scatters, quarries, and trail markers indicate both Archaic and later Patayan occupation. During the Protohistoric and Historic periods the region was used by the Hualapai, Western Yavapai, and Halchidoma aboriginal groups. The Mohave and their ancestors may also have used the resources of the area. The Spanish traveled through the area between the 1500s and 1700s, searching for mines and Indian villages. In the 19<sup>th</sup> and early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries activity centered on ranching and copper, gold, and silver mining.

**Environmental Effects:**

**Proposed Action**

**Direct and Indirect Impacts:** Under the Proposed Action, foot and mountain bike travel would be confined to existing trails. Collection of artifacts and off trail visits would be prohibited.

**Protective/ Mitigation Measures:** In addition to attached stipulations (Appendix A), the timing and duration of the event would be short term and limited to one day of staging and one day of event participation/teardown each year. No long-term or permanent trail markings or structures would be authorized. Temporary disturbance, limited stops along the proposed trails, and special stipulations in the SRP would reduce the likelihood of impacts to cultural and historic. No direct, indirect or cumulative impacts are anticipated.

**No Action Alternative**

**Direct/ Indirect Impacts:** Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no effect to cultural resources because the tours would not occur. The potential for impacts to cultural and paleontological resources caused by on-going activities present in the project area, such as the use of trails by foot, mountain bike, or horse would expect to be continued.

### **3.5 Cumulative Impacts Summary**

**Past and Present Actions**

The event area was designated closed to motorized use in the 2007 LHFO RMP. The trails are popular for all types of non-motorized activity, including hiking, biking, rock hounding, and horseback riding. Designated trails contribute to a network of non-motorized activity within close proximity to Lake Havasu City, accessible from public lands and SARA Park.

## Reasonably Foreseeable Action Scenario

2 Wheel Events LLC would be authorized to deliver the proposed non-motorized event and provide a unique recreation experience for the participants while adhering to all resource stipulations. Event monitoring would determine permit compliance and assist in the validation of the proposed five year permit, and any future permitting actions.

## Cumulative Effects to Resources

Being a two day event (single day of use activity) set to occur annually over a five year period, limited to non-motorized use, any cumulative impacts are anticipated to be minimal and temporary. Cumulative impacts are not anticipated for Cultural/Historic Resources, Recreation, Travel Management, or Wildlife Management Resources.

## **CHAPTER 4 – TRIBES, INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS OR AGENCIES CONSULTED**

### **4.1 List of Preparers and Participants**

Amanda Deeds, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Jennifer House, Wildlife Biologist  
Dr. George Shannon, Archaeologist  
Amy Titterington, Geologist

## **CHAPTER 5 – REFERENCES & GLOSSARY**

### **5.1 References Cited**

- 2007 U.S. Department of the Interior. Bureau of Land Management. Arizona State Office. Lake Havasu Field Office. Lake Havasu Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan. BLM/AZ/PL-07/002.  
<http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/planning/lhfo-final.html>
2011. U.S. Department of the Interior. Bureau of Land Management Travel and Transportation Handbook H-8342-1.
- 2013 U.S. Department of the Interior. Bureau of Land Management. Arizona State Office. Lake Havasu Field Office. Havasu Travel Management Plan.

## 5.2 Glossary of Terms

**ACCESS:** The ability to legally make use of route or way across public or private lands; without barriers to use by the public or a specified user.

**AUTHORIZED:** Invested with legal authority through a written agreement, permit, or other legal document by the BLM.

**BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION:** The gathering and evaluation of information on proposed endangered and threatened species and critical and proposed critical habitat for actions that do not require a biological assessment.

**CAMPING, SHORT TERM:** Camping for short terms of up to 14 days (in any 28-day period) on BLM-managed primitive or undeveloped public land.

**DECISION RECORD:** A manager's decision on a categorical exclusion review or an environmental assessment. Comparable to the record of decision for an environmental impact statement, the decision record includes: 1) a finding of no significant impact, 2) a decision to prepare an environmental impact statement, or 3) a decision not to proceed with a proposal. Also see RECORD OF DECISION.

**DESIGNATED ROADS AND TRAILS:** Legal term used in CFR 8340 — OFF ROAD VEHICLES as a type of limited area designation. The term "roads and trails" includes all types routes use by off highway vehicles.

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES:** An animal or plant species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range (as defined in the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1982).

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA):** A concise public document for which a federal agency is responsible. An EA serves: 1) to briefly provide enough evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) or a finding of no significant impact and to aid an agency's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act when no EIS is needed; and 2) to facilitate preparing an EIS when one is needed.

**EXISTING ROADS AND TRAILS:** Legal term used in CFR 8340 — OFF ROAD VEHICLES as a type of limited area designation. The term "roads and trails" includes all types routes use by off-highway vehicles. For the LHFO RMP "existing roads and trails" would be those roads and trails identified on the Route Inventory Maps as of the date of the Record of Decision.

**FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT (FLPMA):** The act that: 1) set out, for the Bureau of Land Management, standards for managing the public lands including land use planning, sales, withdrawals, acquisitions, and exchanges; 2) authorized the setting up of local advisory councils representing major citizens groups interested in land use planning and management; 3) established criteria for reviewing proposed wilderness areas; and 4) provided guidelines for other aspects of public land management such as grazing.

**HABITAT:** The natural environment of a plant or animal: 1) Specific parameters of physical conditions used by a single species, a group of species, or a large community. The major components of habitat are generally considered to be food, water, cover, and living space;

**LAND USE PLAN DECISION:** Establishes desired outcomes and actions needed to achieve them. Decisions are reached using the BLM planning process. When they are presented to the public as proposed decisions, they can be protested to the BLM Director. They are not appealable to Interior Board of Land Appeals.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:** Land use plans must identify the actions needed to achieve the



desired outcomes, including actions to restore or protect land health. These actions include proactive measures (e.g., measures that will be taken to enhance watershed function and condition) as well as measures or criteria that will be applied to guide day-to-day activities occurring on public land.

**MINING CLAIM:** A mining claim is a selected parcel of Federal Land, valuable for a specific mineral deposit or deposits, for which a right of possession has been asserted under the General Mining Law. This right is restricted to the development and extraction of a mineral deposit. The rights granted by a mining claim protect against a challenge by the United States and other claimants only after the discovery of a valuable mineral deposit. The two types of mining claims are lode and placer. In addition, mill sites and tunnel sites may be located to provide support facilities for lode and placer mining.

**MONITORING:** The collection of information to determine the effects of resource management and detect changing resource trends, needs, and conditions.

**NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT OF 1966, AS AMENDED (NHPA):** A federal statute that established a federal program to further the efforts of private agencies and individuals in preserving the Nation's historic and cultural foundations. NHPA 1) authorized the National Register of Historic Places, 2) established the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and a National Trust Fund to administer grants for historic preservation, and 3) authorized the development of regulations to require federal agencies to consider the effects of federally assisted activities on properties included on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

**OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV):** Any vehicle capable of or designed for travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, deriving motive power from any source other than muscle. OHVs exclude: 1) any non-amphibious registered motorboat; 2), any fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for official or emergency purposes; 3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by a permit, lease, license, agreement, or contract issued by an authorized officer or otherwise approved; 4) vehicles in official use; and 5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.

**PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES (FOSSILS):** The physical remains of plants and animals preserved in soils and sedimentary rock formations. Paleontological resources are important for understanding past environments, environmental change, and the evolution of life.

**PUBLIC LANDS:** As defined by Public Law 94-579 (Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976), lands and interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior, through BLM, regardless of how the United States acquired possession. In common usage, public lands may refer to all federal land, no matter what agency manages it.

**PUBLIC USE:** A cultural property is eligible for consideration as an interpretive exhibit-in place, a subject of supervised participation in scientific or historical study, a subject of unsupervised collecting under permit or related educational and recreational uses by members of the general public.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP):** A BLM planning document that is prepared in accord with Section 202 of FLPMA that presents systematic guidelines for making resource management decisions for a resource area. An RMP is based on an analysis of an area's resources, its existing management, and its capability for alternative uses. RMPs are issue oriented and developed by an interdisciplinary team with public participation.

**ROUTE:** any motorized, non-motorized, or mechanized transportation corridor. Corridor may either be terrestrial or a waterway. "Roads," "trails," and/or "ways" are considered routes.



**SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT (SRP):** An authorization that allows for specific nonexclusive permitted recreational uses of the public lands and related waters. SRPs are issued to control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors, and accommodate commercial recreational uses.

**TRAVEL MANAGEMENT NETWORK:** A system that addresses access requirements to public lands. This includes, but is not limited to: Title 5 rights-of-way, RS 2477 Roads, OHV routes, county maintained roads, trails (hiking, equestrian, bike, and vehicular), authorized or permitted uses (ranchers, miners, and other agencies), and ADA needs. The network aims to also improve the lack of legal access to public lands over private or state lands.

**TREAD LIGHTLY:** A not-for-profit organization whose mission is to increase awareness of ways to enjoy the great outdoors while minimizing human impacts

**WASH:** A channel or miniature valley cut by concentrated runoff but through which water commonly flows only during and immediately after heavy rains, or while snow is melting.

**WILDERNESS:** Area designated by Congress to protect their wilderness values or characteristics as described under the Wilderness Act of 1964.

**WILDLIFE:** A broad term that includes birds, reptiles, amphibians, and non-domesticated mammals.

### **5.3 List of Acronyms Used in this EA**

BLM - Bureau of Land Management

CFR - Code of Federal Regulations

LHFO- Lake Havasu Field Office

NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act

RMP - Resource Management Plan

SRP - Special Recreation Permit

TMA- Travel Management Area

TMP- Travel Management Plan

## APPENDICES

### Appendix A – Stipulations

#### General

1. The permittee shall comply with all Federal, State, and Local laws, ordinances, regulations, orders, postings, or written requirements applicable to the area or operations covered by the Special Recreation Permit. The permittee shall ensure that all persons operating under the authorization have obtained all required Federal, State, and local licenses or registrations. The permittee shall make every reasonable effort to ensure compliance with these requirements by all agents of the permittee and by all clients, customers, participants, or spectators under the permittee's supervision.
2. A Special Recreation Permit authorizes special uses of the public lands and related waters and, should circumstances warrant, the permit may be modified by the BLM at any time, including the amount of use. The authorized officer may suspend a SRP if necessary to protect public resources, health, safety, the environment, or noncompliance with permit stipulations.
3. No value shall be assigned to or claimed for the permit, or for the occupancy or use of Federal lands or related waters granted thereupon. The permit privileges are not to be considered property on which the permittee shall be entitled to earn or receive any return, income, price or compensation. The use of a permit as collateral is not recognized by the BLM.
4. Unless expressly stated, the SRP does not create an exclusive right of use of an area by the permittee. The permittee shall not interfere with other valid uses of the Federal land by other users. The United States reserves the right to use any part of the area for any purpose.
5. The permittee or permittee's representative may not assign, contract, or sublease any portion of the permit authorization or interest therein, directly or indirectly, voluntarily or involuntarily. However, the authorized officer may approve contracting of equipment or services in advance, if necessary to supplement a permittee's operations. Such contracting should not constitute more than half the required equipment or services for any one trip and the permittee must retain operational control of the permitted activity. If equipment or services are contracted, the permittee shall continue to be responsible for compliance with all stipulations and conditions of the permit.
6. All advertising and representations made to the public and the authorized officer must be accurate. Although the addresses and telephone numbers of the BLM may be included in advertising materials, official agency symbols may not be used. The permittee shall not use advertising that attempts to portray or represent the activities as being conducted by the BLM. The permittee may not portray or represent the permit fee as a special Federal

user's tax. The permittee must furnish the authorized officer with any current brochure and price list if requested by the authorized officer.

7. The permittee must assume responsibility for inspecting the permitted area for any existing or new hazardous conditions, e.g., trail and route conditions, land slides, avalanches, rocks, changing water or weather conditions, falling limbs or trees, submerged objects, hazardous wildlife, or other hazards that present risks for which the permittee assumes responsibility.
8. In the event of default on any mortgage or other indebtedness, such as bankruptcy, creditors shall not succeed to the operating rights or privileged of the permittee's SRP.
9. The permittee cannot, unless specifically authorized, erect, construct, or place any building, structure, or other fixture on public lands. Upon leaving, the lands must be restored as nearly as possible to pre-existing conditions.
10. The permittee must present or display a copy of the Special Recreation Permit to an authorized officer's representative, or law enforcement personnel upon request. If required, the permittee must display a copy of the permit or other identification tag on equipment used during the period of authorized use.
11. The authorized officer, or other duly authorized representative of the BLM, may examine any of the records or other documents related to the permit, the permittee or the permittee's operator, employee, or agent for up to three (3) years after expiration of the permit.
12. The term of the permit shall be for five years from the issuance of the permit on November 29, 2013 and has the potential to be renewed for no more than ten years total with satisfactory performance of SRP.
13. A Yearly Use Report shall be submitted to the BLM Authorized Officer, and will include a detailed summary of the number of participants and activity participation. If the Yearly Use Report is not received by the established deadline of December 10, 2013 then the permit will be suspended and/or fines assessed.
14. The applicant/permittee is required to provide the Authorized Officer with a copy of a valid insurance policy or proof thereof covering the periods of use, before any use under this permit begins. The required minimum general liability limits are: \$500,000 per occurrence and \$1,000,000 annual aggregate for bodily injury; and \$30,000 annual aggregate for property damage. The U.S. Government must be named as additional insured on the policy. All liability policies are to specify that the insurance company shall have no right of subrogation (substitution) against the United States of America. The permittee shall indemnify and hold harmless the United States against any liability for personal injury, loss of life, or property damage arising in any way from activities under the permit.

15. The permittee shall pay BLM a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) fee of \$100, effective November 29, 2013. The permittee shall pay BLM 3% of the gross receipts; or the minimum SRP fee, whichever is greater. The minimum advance fee of \$100.00 will be required.
16. The permit will remain valid only if annual fees have been paid.
17. The permittee shall notify the authorized officer of any accident that occurs while involved in activities authorized by this permit which results in: death, personal injury requiring hospitalization or emergency evacuation, or in property damage greater than \$2,500 (lesser amounts if established by State law). Reports should be submitted within 48 hours in the case of death or injury, or 10 days in accidents involving property damage.
18. The permit shall not be construed in any way as preventing public use or access on any public lands except as expressly allowed under the permit.
19. Failure to comply with permit stipulations may result in denial of future permit authorizations for these events, or revocation of permits already issued.

#### Ride Operations

20. All activity associated with stopping areas, including Start/Finish, Photo Opportunity, Water, Lunch or Restroom Breaks will be conducted within the traveled portion of the road and/or predetermined stopping locations. No travel outside of this corridor will be permitted unless authorized in advance by the BLM Authorized Officer.
21. All participants shall stay on the authorized trails. Straying from the course is prohibited. In the event of bicycle breakdown, bikes shall be moved to the side of the trail, or walked to the ending location, but shall not be moved into areas of existing vegetation.
22. In the event of participants leaving the established trails, reclamation of disturbed areas will be required to the satisfaction of the BLM Authorized Officer, including raking of surface disturbance, re-vegetation, etc.
23. Nothing in this permit implies permission to use non-Federal land.. It shall be the responsibility of the permittee to coordinate the event with City of Lake Havasu as necessary, and to obtain written authorization to cross or utilize non-BLM administered land such as ASLD, Tribal Lands, Mohave County Road Department, Arizona Department of Transportation, and private property.
24. Under no circumstances shall the permitte permanently mark the routes by placing signs, painting rocks or painting plants.

25. The number of trips per day is limited to schedule as stated in the permit operations plan.
26. All gates along the routes shall be left as they are found.
27. Permittee would be responsible for handling emergency situations by calling 911 and/or appropriate emergency services.
28. In the event that a participant injures livestock, BLM personnel and/or the grazing permittee in the area will be immediately contacted to make an evaluation of the animal's condition. Under no circumstance will any person other than BLM personnel or the animal's owner be permitted to make a final evaluation of the animal's condition, or to destroy an animal that appears to be suffering.
29. All non-motorized activity will be conducted in a safe manner; reckless biking is a permit violation.
30. BLM reserves the right to postpone or cancel the event if weather conditions create a soft road surface that would be conducive to unacceptable trail damage by participants.

#### Safety

31. Permittee would coordinate with local law enforcement and emergency services to ensure law enforcement involvement in event planning and execution.
32. All portions of trail utilized by both mountain bikers and hikers would be signed to separate foot and bike traffic.
33. Mountain bike participants would be started lemans style to avoid trail crowding and safety concerns. Riders would use caution in passing one another and verbalize such actions.
34. All members of the public who enter SARA Park within the project area would be notified of the event, trails, and direction of travel used by event participants.
35. All event participants would be educated on trail etiquette (i.e. mountain bikers should yield to hikers and horseback riders. Hikers should yield to horseback riders) and the location of emergency service personnel.
36. Helmets must be worn by all mountain biking participants.
37. No event activity is authorized to occur after sunset

## Cultural

38. Permittee shall comply with all State and Federal laws relating to prehistoric or historic archaeological sites or artifacts. Actions other than those explicitly approved by the Bureau of Land Management which result in impacts upon archaeological resources, shall be subject to the judicial proceedings of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. As property of the United States, no person may, without authorization, excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any historic or prehistoric site, artifact, or object of antiquity located on public lands.
39. The collection of artifacts or disturbance of archaeological resources on Federal Lands is prohibited and is prosecutable under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Disturbance of human graves are also prohibited. Actions other than those explicitly approved by the Bureau of Land Management, which result in impacts upon archaeological or historical resources, shall be subject to the provisions of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as amended and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The permittee will immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any archaeological or historical resources encountered during permitted operations and maintain the integrity of such resources pending subsequent investigation.
40. Special collection of artifacts (either historic or prehistoric) or fossils, by permittee or participants on or near any designated route is prohibited. The definition of an artifact is anything over 50 years old that has been made, used or modified by a human. Permittee is required to inform all participants that collecting artifacts, theft or vandalism of any cultural property is a violation of the above mentioned Federal and/or State laws.

## Recreation

41. By virtue of the permit, the permittee is allowed to use public trails across public land while conducting a non-motorized event on designated trails. Safety and respect for fellow partakers are to be stressed to all participants.
42. All permitted trails will remain open for public use; the permittee has no exclusive use of any public route.
43. All trash and litter, as a result of the activity will be disposed of in a proper manner.
44. All activity use is limited to the designated trails. All mountain bike use will be conducted in a safe manner, reckless driving is a permit violation and is prohibited.
45. No overnight camping use, wood, or rock collection is associated with this permit.
46. The permittee is expected to be familiar with and to practice "Leave No Trace" and "Tread Lightly" land use ethics principles.

47. Permittee and all tour participants are prohibited from stopping at, or entering any and all known and unknown abandoned mine features.
48. Any open mine shafts, abandoned mine structures observed by the permitted would be documented and reported to the BLM Authorized Officer within 24 hours of discovery.

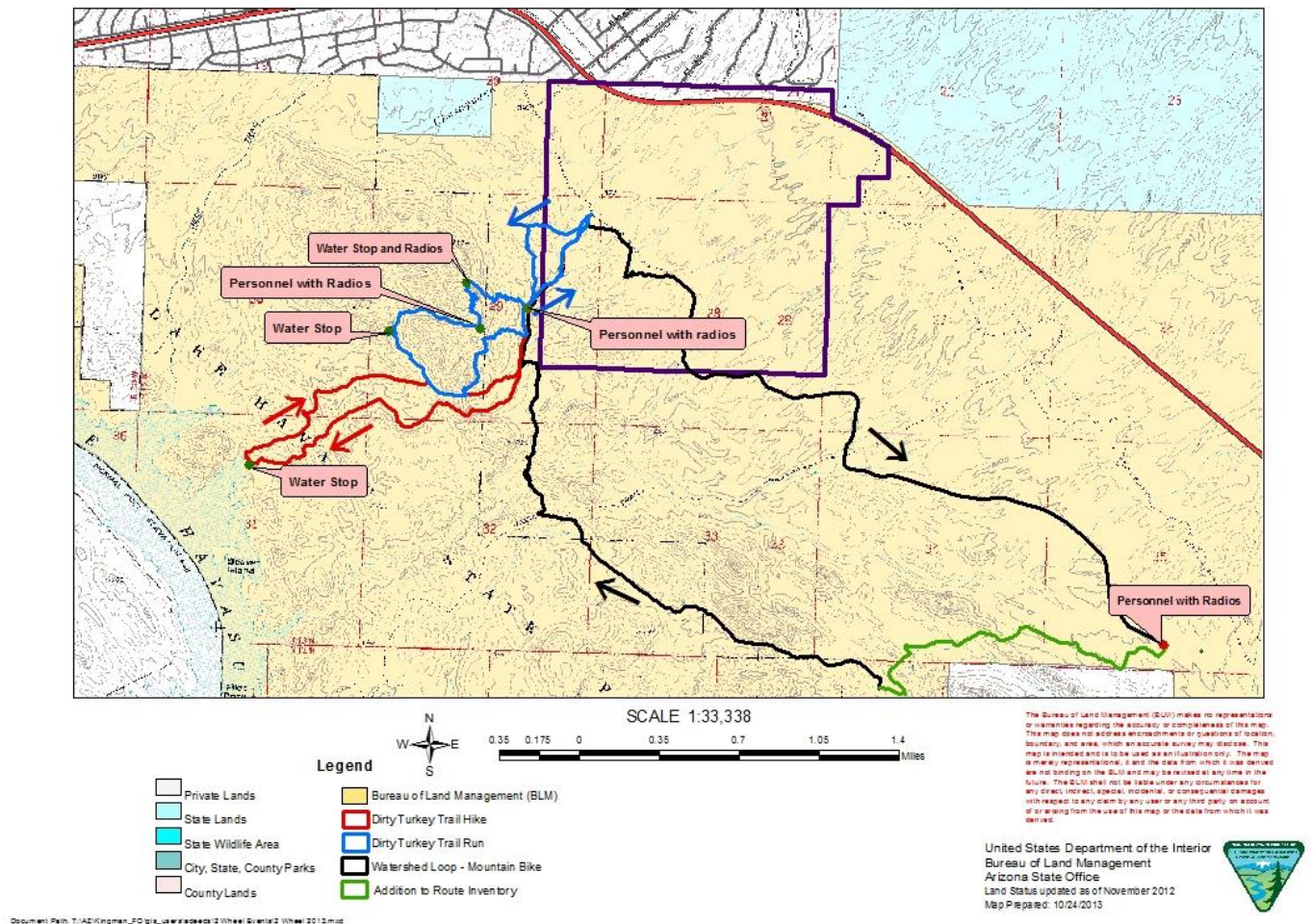
#### Wildlife, Desert Tortoise and Protected Plants

49. Desert Tortoise. Care shall be taken not to disturb or destroy tortoises or their burrows. Handling, collecting, damaging, or destroying desert tortoises are prohibited by Arizona State Law. During the event special care should be given to watch for and avoid any desert tortoise that may be present on a trail.
50. Handling of Desert Tortoise. If a tortoise is endangered by any activity that activity shall cease until either the tortoise moves out of harm's way of its own accord, or until the authorized biologist is able to remove the tortoise to safety. Tortoises shall be handled only by a BLM authorized Wildlife Biologist, and shall be moved solely for the purpose of preventing death or injury. The authorized biologist shall be responsible for taking appropriate measures to ensure any desert tortoise relocated from the project site is not exposed to temperature extremes which could be harmful to the animal.
51. Native Plants. State protected plant species shall not be disturbed, damaged, or destroyed without prior authorization from the BLM.
52. All wildlife and migratory birds shall be observed from a distance. Any injured wildlife shall be reported to the Arizona Game & Fish Dept. at (928)342-0091.
53. Harassment of wildlife, wild horses or burros, or destruction of private and public improvements such as fences and gates is prohibited. The taking of any threatened or endangered plant or animal is prohibited.
54. State protected plant species, including all cacti shall not be disturbed, damaged, or destroyed. The taking of any threatened or endangered plant or animal is prohibited.
55. Participants will be prohibited from approaching bighorn sheep on foot or by bike. Site visits to water tanks, wildlife catchments, or any other wildlife related facility is prohibited.



## Appendix B – Course Map

### 2 Wheel Events: Dirty Turkey and Attack the Crack





**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2013-0051-EA**

**SRP #AZ-030-14-02**

**Review:**

Prepared by: \s\Amanda Deeds Authenticated Amanda Deeds Amanda Deeds, Outdoor Recreation Planner Project Lead	11/08/2013 Date
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Reviewed by: \s\Dave Daniels Authenticated Amanda Deeds Dave Daniels CRD Planning & Environmental Coordinator	4/30/2014 Date
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Reviewed by: \s\Jayson Barangan Authenticated Amanda Deeds Jayson Barangan Assistant Field Manager Recreation & Visitor Services	4/30/2014 Date
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Reviewed by: \s\Kimber Liebhauser Authenticated Amanda Deeds Kimber Liebhauser Field Manager Lake Havasu Field Office	11/21/2013 Date
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# **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

## **LAKE HAVASU FIELD OFFICE 2 Wheel Events Attack The Crack and Dirty Turkey Lake Havasu City, AZ DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2013-0051-EA**

### **Background**

A five-year SRP application filed by 2 Wheel Events L.L.C. proposes commercial and competitive use of public land adjacent to the east, south and west sides of SARA Park, a R&PP lease to Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Proposed activities include a fun hike, a mountain bike endurance run, and foot race. All events would be open to the public for a fee. The applicant was previously permitted for this event in 2012. One segment of the event course was not designated within the Lake Havasu Field Office Travel Management Plan. This Environmental Assessment evaluates both the impacts of the proposed SRP and the inclusion of an approximately 1.5 mile non-motorized trail into the current travel network approved in the Havasu Travel Management Plan (TMP).

### **Determination**

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2013-0051-EA), I have determined that the Proposed Action does not constitute a federal action having a significant impact on the human environment. Therefore an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required.

This finding is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), both with regard to the *context* and *intensity* of the impacts described in the EA.

### **Context**

The Proposed Action involves a two-day commercial and competitive non-motorized event on BLM administered public lands. All applicable laws and permit stipulations would be adhered to. The first event of the proposed five-year SRP would occur on November 29-30, 2013; all subsequent events would follow suit on an annual basis.

The Proposed Action includes a one-lap foot race, a one-lap fun hike, and a six-hour competitive mountain bike endurance event for up to 300 participants on designated non-motorized trails. Approximately 15 miles of existing trails on BLM administered public lands would be utilized; approximately 2 miles of existing trails on R&PP leased lands would be utilized.

The event would be staged on R&PP lands situated on SARA Park. One trail proposed for use as part of a mountain bike course lies completely on R&PP lands and was not part of this analysis. No public land closures would be necessary as SARA Park would remain open to

public use. The applicant would coordinate with Lake Havasu City and local law enforcement officials to control traffic, participants, and spectators on SARA Park. Event participants and casual users alike would be informed of event activities and its associated course upon arrival to SARA Park.

The only other access road that leads to public lands within the proposed area of use is located approximately four miles south of SARA Park on Highway 95. This access road is gated to the public and designated in the Havasu TMP as limited to administrative use. While this limited access does not present any foreseeable conflict or safety concerns, the gate will be signed 24 hours prior to the start of the and throughout the entire duration of the event for public notification.

Water stops and event personnel with radios would be staged under temporary pop-up shade structures at multiple locations along the proposed trails. These stops would be placed in pre-disturbed areas. No off-trail foot or bike travel would be permitted. All event signing, litter, and trash would be properly disposed of within 72 hours after the event has ended.

A segment of the routes proposed for use for the mountain bike endurance portion of the event provides was not designated within in the Havasu TMP; this segment is approximately 1.5 miles in length and serves as a bypass to adjacent private lands. It is a well-established trail, is currently inventoried, and was previously permitted during last year's event. The Proposed Action would modify the Havasu TMP to designate this route as open to non-motorized use.

### **Intensity –**

#### *1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.*

The Proposed Action would impact resources as described in the EA. Measures to reduce impacts were incorporated in the design of the action alternatives. None of the environmental effects discussed in detail in the EA and associated appendices are considered significant.

#### *2) The degree to which the Proposed Action affects public health or safety.*

The Dirty Turkey and Attack the Crack event has been designed to minimize impacts to health and public safety by requiring an emergency action plan, trail assistants, and radio communication. Although off-roading activities have some inherent risk to public safety, the applicant executes measures that ensure that safety risks are minimal.

#### *3) Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.*

The project area is located on public lands administered by the Lake Havasu Field Office. There are no farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas in the project area.

#### *4) The degree to which the effects on the quality of human environment are likely to be highly controversial.*

Scoping for the Proposed Action and background information was made available to affected and interested agencies during the 30-day scoping period that was held between September 17, 2013 and October 16, 2013. No controversies were identified.

*5) The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

There are no highly uncertain or unique or unknown risks in implementation of the Proposed Action.

*6) The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

The Proposed Action would not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects. Any other actions would be subject to separate analysis under NEPA.

*7) Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

A cumulative effects analysis was conducted as part of the EA, and it determined that there were no cumulatively significant effects associated with the selected alternative.

*8) The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss of destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.*

BLM has made the determination that the project would not affect historic resources. Design features for managing sites that are determined to be potentially impacted by non-motorized event include: limitations on stopping locations and situations prohibiting off trail travel, the collection of artifact collection, and disturbance of archaeological sites.

*9) The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.*

No federally listed species under the ESA, or critical habitat for such species, are present on, or in the vicinity of, the event and therefore would not be impacted by the Proposed Action.

*10) Whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.*

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Lake Havasu Field Office Resource Management Plan. The action does not violate any known federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

## **FONSI**

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the discussion of environmental impacts. I have determined that the Proposed Action with the mitigation measures described below will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan.

\s\Kimber Liebhauser Authenticated Amanda Deeds  
Kimber Liebhauser  
Field Manager,  
Lake Havasu Field Office

11/21/2013  
Date

# **DECISION RECORD**

## **LAKE HAVASU FIELD OFFICE 2 Wheel Events Attack The Crack and Dirty Turkey Lake Havasu City, AZ DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2013-0051-EA**

### **Introduction**

The Proposed Action involves a two-day commercial and competitive non-motorized event on BLM administered public lands. All applicable laws and permit stipulations would be adhered to. The first event of the proposed five-year SRP would occur on November 29-30, 2013; all subsequent events would follow suit on an annual basis.

The Proposed Action includes a one-lap foot race, a one-lap fun hike, and a six-hour competitive mountain bike endurance event for up to 300 participants on designated non-motorized trails. Approximately 15 miles of existing trails on BLM administered public lands would be utilized; approximately 2 miles of existing trails on R&PP leased lands would be utilized.

The event would be staged on R&PP lands situated on SARA Park. One trail proposed for use as part of a mountain bike course lies completely on R&PP lands and was not part of this analysis. No public land closures would be necessary as SARA Park would remain open to public use. The applicant would coordinate with Lake Havasu City and local law enforcement officials to control traffic, participants, and spectators on SARA Park. Event participants and casual users alike would be informed of event activities and its associated course upon arrival to SARA Park.

The only other access road that leads to public lands within the proposed area of use is located approximately four miles south of SARA Park on Highway 95. This access road is gated to the public and designated in the Havasu TMP as limited to administrative use. While this limited access does not present any foreseeable conflict or safety concerns, the gate will be signed 24 hours prior to the start of the and throughout the entire duration of the event for public notification.

Water stops and event personnel with radios would be staged under temporary pop-up shade structures at multiple locations along the proposed trails. These stops would be placed in pre-disturbed areas. No off-trail foot or bike travel would be permitted. All event signing, litter, and trash would be properly disposed of within 72 hours after the event has ended.

A segment of the routes proposed for use for the mountain bike endurance portion of the event provides was not designated within in the Havasu TMP; this segment is approximately 1.5 miles in length and serves as a bypass to adjacent private lands. It is a well-established trail, is currently inventoried, and was previously permitted during last year's event. The Proposed Action would modify the Havasu TMP to designate this route as open to non-motorized use.

## Scoping and Public Involvement

On 09/17/2013 the Proposed Action was evaluated by the BLM's interdisciplinary team. Issued that were raised during the review included:

- Cultural resource protection
- Potential for terrestrial wildlife disturbance

## Land Use Conformance

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the *Lake Havasu Field Office Resource Management Plan* (RMP) approved on May 10, 2007 and is specifically provided for in the following RMP management objectives and decisions:

- Page 103, Special Recreation Permits...will be monitored for compliance and effectiveness on an as-needed basis through the NEPA process.
- Page 112, TM-1 Designations will be made and management implemented for a balance of opportunities for the entire range of motorized and non-motorized access needs. While in balance with other resource values found on public lands.
- Page 113, TM-6 The BLM will continue to provide motorized and non-motorized access across public lands with emphasis on development of non-motorized trails and trailheads.

## Authority

Implementation of the Proposed Action is under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and regulations found at 43 CFR 2930 and 43 CFR 8342.1.

## Environmental Commitments

- **Recreation**

As described in Section 3, the proposed action has potential to negatively affect public visitor experiences during the events. This could include those visitors who may have expectations of an experience of solitude and remoteness, contributing to an experience they may perceive as crowding. In addition to attached stipulations, to limit negative public visitor experiences, 2 Wheel Events LLC has been advertising the event at the SARA Park trailhead two months in advance. The event has also been posted on the Lake Havasu City and Convention of Visitors Bureau calendars. Start times of the activities would be staggered to avoid over congestion of event participants. Mountain bikers would start at 8:00 and take off in lemans style to avoid congestion. The footrace would begin at 9:00 and the fun hike would begin after all footrace participants have cleared the start line. The hike and run events would end before 10:30 with the mountain bike event participants would finish before 3:00. All casual users who enter SARA Park trailhead would be informed of the event and trails utilized to avoid unexpected conflict.

- **Travel Management Planning**

As described in Section 3, the Havasu TMP would be amended to include the designation of a mile and a half of existing non-motorized trail. The trail would provide a public lands bypass to private lands crossed by the current trails system. The additional trail would increase overall connectivity of the current travel network to meet current and long term public needs. Increase in trail traffic may also increase trail wear, erosion, and the potential for route proliferation. The current existing trail would be maintained for non-motorized public use. Any new trail construction or re-routing maintenance would be analyzed through the NEPA process. The trail location is such that it would be difficult to operate a mountain bike or ride a horse off of the existing trail. Trail would be maintained and monitored in accordance to BLM standards with the assistance of local volunteers.

- **Wildlife Terrestrial**

As described in Section 3, foot and mountain bike travel would be confined to existing routes. The presence of increased public use could cause short term disturbances and displacement of wildlife. In addition to attached stipulations, No stops or site visits would be authorized at the water catchment located in close proximity to the mountain bike course within T12N R19W Section 4. Harassment of wildlife would be prohibited. The timing and duration of the event would be short term and limited to one day of event set up and one day of event activity/tear down each year. Any affects to wildlife would be temporary and minimal. Temporary disturbance, limited stops along the proposed trails, and special stipulations in the Special Recreation Permit would reduce the likelihood of impacts to wildlife. No long term or permanent trail markers or structures would be permitted. No direct, indirect or cumulative effects are anticipated.

- **Cultural and Historic Resources**

As described in Section 3, foot and mountain bike travel would be confined to existing trails. Collection of artifacts and off trail visits would be prohibited. In addition to attached stipulations, the timing and duration of the event would be short term and limited to one day of staging and one day of event participation/teardown each year. No long-term or permanent trail markings or structures would be authorized. Temporary disturbance, limited stops along the proposed trails, and special stipulations in the Special Recreation Permit would reduce the likelihood of impacts to cultural and historic. No direct, indirect or cumulative effects are anticipated.

## **Special Stipulations**



8. The permittee shall comply with all Federal, State, and Local laws, ordinances, regulations, orders, postings, or written requirements applicable to the area or operations covered by the Special Recreation Permit. The permittee shall ensure that all persons operating under the authorization have obtained all required Federal, State, and local licenses or registrations. The permittee shall make every reasonable effort to ensure compliance with these requirements by all agents of the permittee and by all clients, customers, participants, or spectators under the permittee's supervision.
9. A Special Recreation Permit authorizes special uses of the public lands and related waters and, should circumstances warrant, the permit may be modified by the BLM at any time, including the amount of use. The authorized officer may suspend a SRP if necessary to protect public resources, health, safety, the environment, or noncompliance with permit stipulations.
10. No value shall be assigned to or claimed for the permit, or for the occupancy or use of Federal lands or related waters granted thereupon. The permit privileges are not to be considered property on which the permittee shall be entitled to earn or receive any return, income, price or compensation. The use of a permit as collateral is not recognized by the BLM.
11. Unless expressly stated, the SRP does not create an exclusive right of use of an area by the permittee. The permittee shall not interfere with other valid uses of the Federal land by other users. The United States reserves the right to use any part of the area for any purpose.
12. The permittee or permittee's representative may not assign, contract, or sublease any portion of the permit authorization or interest therein, directly or indirectly, voluntarily or involuntarily. However, the authorized officer may approve contracting of equipment or services in advance, if necessary to supplement a permittee's operations. Such contracting should not constitute more than half the required equipment or services for any one trip and the permittee must retain operational control of the permitted activity. If equipment or services are contracted, the permittee shall continue to be responsible for compliance with all stipulations and conditions of the permit.
13. All advertising and representations made to the public and the authorized officer must be accurate. Although the addresses and telephone numbers of the BLM may be included in advertising materials, official agency symbols may not be used. The permittee shall not use advertising that attempts to portray or represent the activities as being conducted by the BLM. The permittee may not portray or represent the permit fee as a special Federal user's tax. The permittee must furnish the authorized officer with any current brochure and price list if requested by the authorized officer.
14. The permittee must assume responsibility for inspecting the permitted area for any existing or new hazardous conditions, e.g., trail and route conditions, land slides, avalanches, rocks, changing water or weather conditions, falling limbs or trees,

submerged objects, hazardous wildlife, or other hazards that present risks for which the permittee assumes responsibility.

56. In the event of default on any mortgage or other indebtedness, such as bankruptcy, creditors shall not succeed to the operating rights or privileged of the permittee's SRP.
57. The permittee cannot, unless specifically authorized, erect, construct, or place any building, structure, or other fixture on public lands. Upon leaving, the lands must be restored as nearly as possible to pre-existing conditions.
58. The permittee must present or display a copy of the Special Recreation Permit to an authorized officer's representative, or law enforcement personnel upon request. If required, the permittee must display a copy of the permit or other identification tag on equipment used during the period of authorized use.
59. The authorized officer, or other duly authorized representative of the BLM, may examine any of the records or other documents related to the permit, the permittee or the permittee's operator, employee, or agent for up to three (3) years after expiration of the permit.
60. The term of the permit shall be for five years from the issuance of the permit on November 29, 2013 and has the potential to be renewed for no more than ten years total with satisfactory performance of SRP.
61. A Yearly Use Report shall be submitted to the BLM Authorized Officer, and will include a detailed summary of the number of participants and activity participation. If the Yearly Use Report is not received by the established deadline of December 10, 2013 then the permit will be suspended and/or fines assessed.
62. The applicant/permittee is required to provide the Authorized Officer with a copy of a valid insurance policy or proof thereof covering the periods of use, before any use under this permit begins. The required minimum general liability limits are: \$500,000 per occurrence and \$1,000,000 annual aggregate for bodily injury; and \$30,000 annual aggregate for property damage. The U.S. Government must be named as additional insured on the policy. All liability policies are to specify that the insurance company shall have no right of subrogation (substitution) against the United States of America. The permittee shall indemnify and hold harmless the United States against any liability for personal injury, loss of life, or property damage arising in any way from activities under the permit.
63. The permittee shall pay BLM a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) fee of \$100, effective November 29, 2013. The permittee shall pay BLM 3% of the gross receipts; or the minimum SRP fee, whichever is greater. The minimum advance fee of \$100.00 will be required.

64. The permit will remain valid only if annual fees have been paid.
65. The permittee shall notify the authorized officer of any accident that occurs while involved in activities authorized by this permit which results in: death, personal injury requiring hospitalization or emergency evacuation, or in property damage greater than \$2,500 (lesser amounts if established by State law). Reports should be submitted within 48 hours in the case of death or injury, or 10 days in accidents involving property damage.
66. The permit shall not be construed in any way as preventing public use or access on any public lands except as expressly allowed under the permit.
67. Failure to comply with permit stipulations may result in denial of future permit authorizations for these events, or revocation of permits already issued.

### **Ride Operations**

68. All activity associated with stopping areas, including Start/Finish, Photo Opportunity, Water, Lunch or Restroom Breaks will be conducted within the traveled portion of the road and/or predetermined stopping locations. No travel outside of this corridor will be permitted unless authorized in advance by the BLM Authorized Officer.
69. All participants shall stay on the authorized trails. Straying from the course is prohibited. In the event of bicycle breakdown, bikes shall be moved to the side of the trail, or walked to the ending location, but shall not be moved into areas of existing vegetation.
70. In the event of participants leaving the established trails, reclamation of disturbed areas will be required to the satisfaction of the BLM Authorized Officer, including raking of surface disturbance, re-vegetation, etc.
71. Nothing in this permit implies permission to use non-Federal land. It shall be the responsibility of the permittee to coordinate the event with the City of Lake Havasu as necessary, and to obtain written authorization to cross or utilize non-BLM administered land such as ASLD, Tribal Lands, Mohave County Road Department, Arizona Department of Transportation, and private property.
72. Under no circumstances shall the permittee permanently mark the routes by placing signs, painting rocks or painting plants.
73. The number of trips per day is limited to schedule as stated in the permit operations plan.
74. All gates along the routes shall be left as they are found.
75. Permittee would be responsible for handling emergency situations by calling 911 and/or appropriate emergency services.

76. In the event that a participant injures livestock, BLM personnel and/or the grazing permittee in the area will be immediately contacted to make an evaluation of the animal's condition. Under no circumstance will any person other than BLM personnel or the animal's owner be permitted to make a final evaluation of the animal's condition, or to destroy an animal that appears to be suffering.
77. All non-motorized activity will be conducted in a safe manner; reckless biking is a permit violation.
78. BLM reserves the right to postpone or cancel the event if weather conditions create a soft road surface that would be conducive to unacceptable trail damage by participants.

### **Safety**

79. Permittee would coordinate with local law enforcement and emergency services to ensure law enforcement involvement in event planning and execution.
80. All portions of trail utilized by both mountain bikers and hikers would be signed to separate foot and bike traffic.
81. Mountain bike participants would be started lemans style to avoid trail crowding and safety concerns. Riders would use caution is passing one another and verbalize such actions.
82. All members of the public who enter SARA Park within the project area would be notified of the event, trails, and direction of travel used by event participants.
83. All event participants would be educated on trail etiquette (i.e. mountain bikers should yield to hikers and horseback riders. Hikers should yield to horseback riders) and the location of emergency service personnel.
84. Helmets must be worn by all mountain biking participants.
85. No event activity is authorized to occur after sunset

### **Cultural**

86. Permittee shall comply with all State and Federal laws relating to prehistoric or historic archaeological sites or artifacts. Actions other than those explicitly approved by the Bureau of Land Management which result in impacts upon archaeological resources, shall be subject to the judicial proceedings of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. As property of the United States, no person may, without authorization, excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any historic or prehistoric site, artifact, or object of antiquity located on public lands.

87. The collection of artifacts or disturbance of archaeological resources on Federal Lands is prohibited and is prosecutable under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Disturbance of human graves are also prohibited. Actions other than those explicitly approved by the Bureau of Land Management, which result in impacts upon archaeological or historical resources, shall be subject to the provisions of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as amended and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The permittee will immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any archaeological or historical resources encountered during permitted operations and maintain the integrity of such resources pending subsequent investigation.
88. Special collection of artifacts (either historic or prehistoric) or fossils, by permittee or participants on or near any designated route is prohibited. The definition of an artifact is anything over 50 years old that has been made, used or modified by a human. Permittee is required to inform all participants that collecting artifacts, theft or vandalism of any cultural property is a violation of the above mentioned Federal and/or State laws.

## **Recreation**

89. By virtue of the permit, the permittee is allowed to use public trails across public land while conducting a non-motorized event on designated trails. Safety and respect for fellow partakers are to be stressed to all participants.
90. All permitted trails will remain open for public use; the permittee has no exclusive use of any public route.
91. All trash and litter, as a result of the activity will be disposed of in a proper manner.
92. All activity use is limited to the designated trails. All mountain bike use will be conducted in a safe manner, reckless driving is a permit violation and is prohibited.
93. No overnight camping use, wood, or rock collection is associated with this permit.
94. The permittee is expected to be familiar with and to practice “Leave No Trace” and “Tread Lightly” land use ethics principles.
95. Permittee and all tour participants are prohibited from stopping at, or entering any and all known and unknown abandoned mine features.
96. Any open mine shafts, abandoned mine structures observed by the permitted would be documented and reported to the BLM Authorized Officer within 24 hours of discovery.

## **Wildlife, Desert Tortoise and Protected Plants**

97. Desert Tortoise. Care shall be taken not to disturb or destroy tortoises or their burrows. Handling, collecting, damaging, or destroying desert tortoises are prohibited by Arizona

State Law. During the event special care should be given to watch for and avoid any desert tortoise that may be present on a trail.

98. Handling of Desert Tortoise. If a tortoise is endangered by any activity that activity shall cease until either the tortoise moves out of harm's way of its own accord, or until the authorized biologist is able to remove the tortoise to safety. Tortoises shall be handled only by a BLM authorized Wildlife Biologist, and shall be moved solely for the purpose of preventing death or injury. The authorized biologist shall be responsible for taking appropriate measures to ensure any desert tortoise relocated from the project site is not exposed to temperature extremes which could be harmful to the animal.
99. Native Plants. State protected plant species shall not be disturbed, damaged, or destroyed without prior authorization from the BLM.
100. All wildlife and migratory birds shall be observed from a distance. Any injured wildlife shall be reported to the Arizona Game & Fish Dept. at (928)342-0091.
101. Harassment of wildlife, wild horses or burros, or destruction of private and public improvements such as fences and gates is prohibited. The taking of any threatened or endangered plant or animal is prohibited.
102. State protected plant species, including all cacti shall not be disturbed, damaged, or destroyed. The taking of any threatened or endangered plant or animal is prohibited.
103. Participants will be prohibited from approaching bighorn sheep on foot or by bike. Site visits to water tanks, wildlife catchments, or any other wildlife related facility is prohibited.

## **Rationale**

Under the Proposed Action, 2 Wheel Events LLC would conduct one non-motorized event on an annual basis for up to five years under a BLM Special Recreation Permit. The project would not have significant effects to the human environment and the Finding of No Significant Impact is hereby incorporated by reference. The decision to allow the Proposed Action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation, and is in conformance with the Lake Havasu Field Office Resource Management Plan.

## **DECISION**

It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2013-0051-EA. The Proposed Action will be subject to the stipulations attached to this environmental assessment.

## **APPROVED**

\s\Kimber Liebhauser Authenticated Amanda Deeds  
Kimber Liebhauser, Field Manager  
Lake Havasu Field Office

11/21/2013  
Date

## **APPEALS**

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in the Lake Havasu Field Office, 2610 Sweetwater Avenue, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406 within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition (request) pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 2801.10 or 43 CFR 2881.10 for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with the Lake Havasu Field Office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

### **Standards for Obtaining a Stay**

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.